

We thank Rev. Shuler for gracing this House with our invocation today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ANOTHER CASUALTY OF MURDER IN MEXICO, ICE AGENT JAIME ZAPATA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, David Hartley, Lesley Enriquez, Arthur Redelfs, Nancy Davis, Carlos Mario Gonzalez Bermudez, Juan Carlos Echeverri, and now ICE agent Jaime Zapata. These are all American victims of the border war, the third front, all murdered in Mexico.

Yesterday, ICE agent Jaime Zapata was ambushed and murdered and another agent was wounded when they were gunned down at a fake "checkpoint" between Mexico City and Monterrey. None of the assassins or perpetrators of any of these homicides have ever been captured. I suspect, based upon Mexico's lax enforcement of the rule of law, no one will ever be held accountable.

Agent Zapata's murder will be news for a few days, then the country will move on to other matters. But the border war continues against the vicious drug cartels and it is time we acknowledge that this war is not going away. The drug bandits have operational control of portions of the southern border. Drugs and people are smuggled north. Money and guns are smuggled south.

We should help our neighbors restore the rule of law in Mexico and hold the lawless accountable for murdering Mexicans and Americans. Otherwise, there will be more murders like the one against Agent Zapata.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL ROGER BRAUTIGAN

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly great American, Major General Roger Brautigan. He is a 33-year Army veteran who has earned the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.

Following his military service, Roger Brautigan joined the California Department of Veterans Affairs and was appointed as its secretary in 2009. Under his leadership, the department implemented California's Operation Welcome Home, a groundbreaking program that matches veterans with the serv-

ices and assistance they've earned and need. General Brautigan, who recently retired from the California Department of Veterans Affairs, envisions Operation Welcome Home expanding nationwide so that all veterans may benefit from this important and effective program.

Throughout both his military service and civilian career, General Brautigan proved himself to be an exemplary leader. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major General Roger Brautigan for his tireless service to our veterans, to the State of California, and to our great Nation.

THE PROPOSED BUDGET HURTS SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the proposed budget for next year was released by the current administration. This budget fails to address the issue of Washington's 4-year spending excess.

The proposed budget freezes will not work. They will not provide a path to fundamental reform. The proposed budget destroys jobs by adding \$1.3 trillion to the national debt. Bill Miller of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that the budget leads to \$175 billion in new tax increases. It cripples job creation by spending too much, taxing too much, and borrowing too much. Excessive borrowing by the government competes unfairly with small businesses.

I support fundamental cuts that will promote private sector job creation. We cannot expect to borrow the way to prosperity. House Republicans are committed to combining sound policy with practical solutions to create jobs. We need to cut spending, reduce borrowing, keep taxes low, and provide the necessary tools to jump-start job creation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPUBLICAN SPENDING PLAN

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. President Obama understands that it's a very difficult time for the American people. Our economy is improving, but unemployment remains around 9 percent across the Nation and is close to 14 percent in California's Inland Empire.

Right now we should be working on a plan that creates jobs and makes intelligent cuts to the budget. But instead, the Republicans have introduced a spending bill that will undermine the future of the American children.

The Republican CR is another attempt to play politics with the well-being of every American. There will be 200,000 children kicked out of Head

Start while Republicans still live in their offices. Over \$700 million will be cut from WIC. Pell Grants will be reduced, making college unaffordable to tens of thousands, and thousands more teachers will be receiving pink slips.

Scripture tells us, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," but apparently, for Republicans, it's about "me, myself, and Irene."

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LIBERATION OF DR. FAN YAFENG

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, once again the Chinese government has targeted a human rights proponent for persecution, Dr. Fan Yafeng, head of the Christian Human Rights Lawyers of China.

Dr. Yafeng was granted an interview last October with National Public Radio regarding the absence of the Chinese delegation at the Lausanne Congress, which is an international gathering of evangelicals.

The government's response to the interview was systematic interrogation, search and seizure, and torture. He is currently under house arrest, guarded by police in Beijing and cut off from the outside world. Those attempting to contact him through family have also endured police brutality.

I call upon the State Department and our Embassy in Beijing to reach out to Dr. Yafeng to verify his condition and apply pressure on the Chinese government to ensure his release. The Chinese government's continued persecution of human rights advocates, harassment, brutality, and house arrest must not be tolerated. I hope that we will stand up for Dr. Yafeng and support his peaceful work to bring freedom and dignity to the Chinese people.

SUPPORT FUNDING OF NOAA

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the NOAA budget cuts in the continuing resolution before us in the House today.

Slashing NOAA's funding by 22 percent will put lives, property, and critical infrastructure in jeopardy by diminishing our ability to respond to disasters like the gulf oil spill and to conduct safe evacuations in advance of weather emergencies.

Also, marine sanctuaries would be inevitably cut, and those sanctuaries are so essential to a healthy coastal environment, and to the fishermen and to the tourism economies along our coasts.

Cutting NOAA funding will also sacrifice the science and technology investments that we need to win the future and to maintain robust funding for this vital agency.